

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19. (Cancelled)

Claim 20. (New) A control apparatus for a vehicle having obstruction detection means including radar apparatus for measuring a headway distance to an obstruction existing ahead of said vehicle, and performing a plurality of operation support functions by controlling at least throttle, brakes and a transmission of said vehicle according to the headway distance to the obstruction, said apparatus comprising:

means for detecting a detection performance level of said obstruction detection means; and

means for individually enabling or interrupting operation of said plurality of operation support functions in accordance with said detection performance level.

Claim 21. (New) A control apparatus for a vehicle according to Claim 20, further comprising means for notifying at state of an operation or stop of said plurality of operation support functions to a driver.

Claim 22. (New) A control apparatus according to Claim 20, further comprising means for classifying detection performance of said obstruction detection means into three or more different levels.

Claim 23. (New) A control apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein said plurality of operation support functions includes at least an alarm control, and said alarm control is enabled even though the detected detection performance level of said obstruction detection means is the lowest level among said three or more different levels.

Claim 24. (New) A control apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein each limit value of detection performance level required for each of said plurality of operation support functions is determined, and the operation support function

having the limit value higher than the detected detection performance level of said obstruction detection means.

Claim 25. (New) A control apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein said operation support functions includes an adaptive cruise control and an alarm control, the limit value of detection performance level required for the adaptive cruise control is higher than the limit value of detection performance level required for said alarm control.

Claim 26. (New) A control apparatus according to Claim 20, further comprising means for notifying information concerning a relation of said vehicle and said obstruction to a driver on the basis of the measured headway distance, wherein a method of notifying the information is changed according to the detected detection performance level.

Claim 27. (New) A control apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein said means for detecting a detection performance level of said obstruction detection means,

sets as an initial value a distance at which an obstruction approaching said vehicle begins to be detected and/or a distance at which an

obstruction receding from said vehicle begins to be missed when said obstruction detection means is normal,

calculates a current value of the distance at which said obstruction approaching said vehicle begins to be detected and/or said distance at which said obstruction receding from said vehicle begins to be missed, and

compares said initial value with said current value to thereby judge detection performance level of said obstruction detection means.

Claim 28. A control apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein said obstruction detection means is a millimeter-wave radar.